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The Sea Coast Echo

VOL. 106, NO. 11 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI SINGLE COPY 50 CENTS TWO SECTIONS 18 PAGES

Hilton joins Casino World venture

**Moran:
'win-win
situation'**

BY ED LEPOMA
The giant Hilton Gaming Corporation has signed a "letter of intent" to jointly develop the Casino World gambling complex planned in the Bay of St. Louis south of Diamondhead.

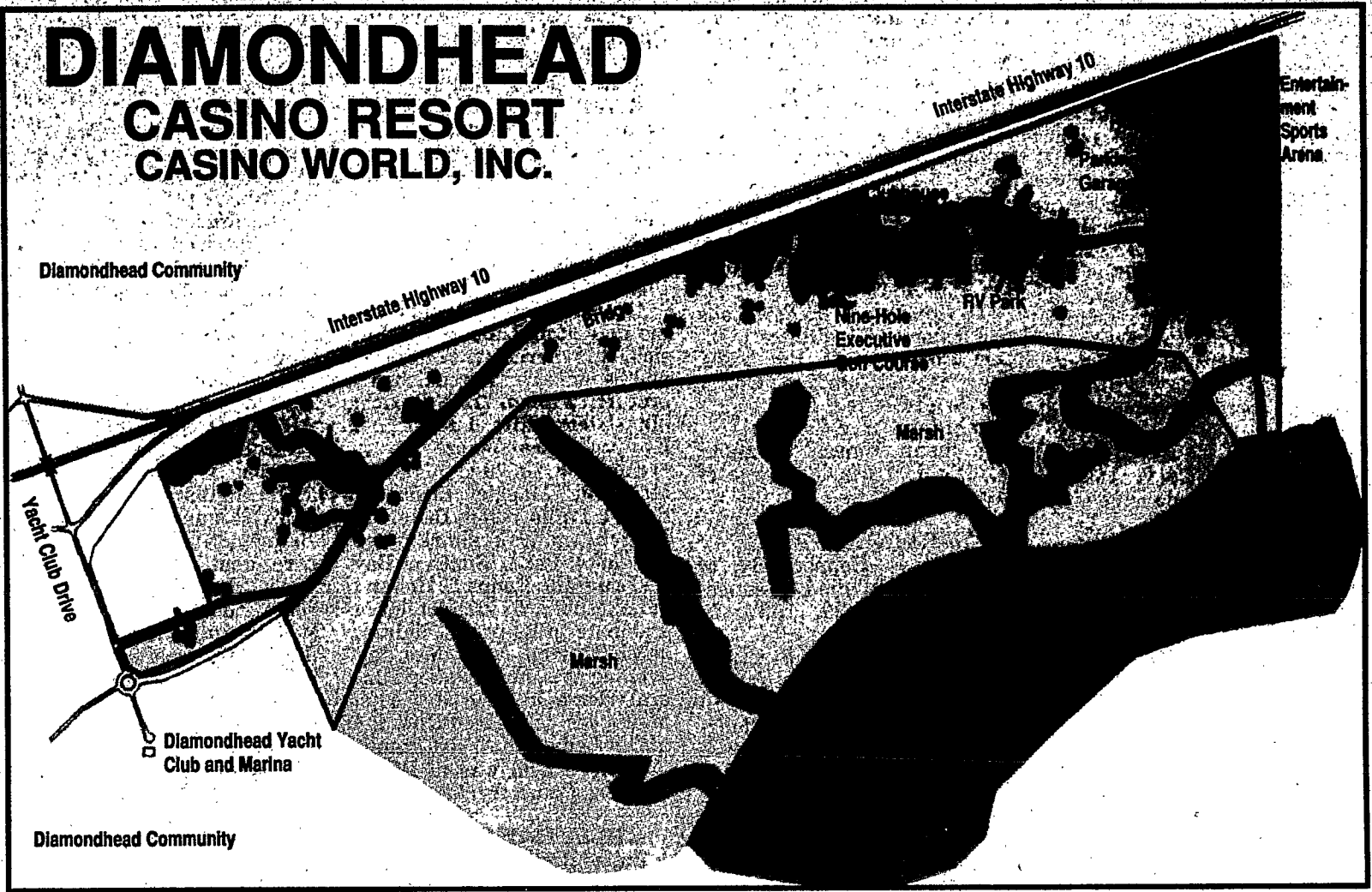
The deal that Hilton won exclusive rights to negotiate a joint venture with Europa Cruises Corp., was confirmed by Charles H. "Kip" Reddien, chairman and chief executive officer for Casino World, who is based in Diamondhead.

Reddien said in exchange for the exclusive right to negotiate, Hilton put up front money of \$400,000, and parties have a 180-day period to reach a final agreement.

Reddien said the joint venture should quell rumors that Casino World "was just a paper corporation" with no stable financial base.

"This is the largest gambling corporation in the world. They don't need to borrow any money. They have the financial resources to build a project of this magnitude," said Reddien.

Deborah Vitale, chairman of the board of directors of Europa Cruise Corp., issued a



press release from Europa headquarters in Madeira Beach, Florida also confirming the agreement to enter into a joint venture.

"The time has come for Europa to associate with a major gaming entity which has the resources necessary to turn our vision in Diamondhead into a reality," said Vitale.

She said Hilton has the resources needed to begin construction immediately on the 404-acre tract once all final permits are approved.

The joint venture agreement, if reached, would give Hilton majority ownership, control and management. The destination resort is envisioned as a \$200 million investment to include a 450-room hotel and spa and five-story parking garage, two gaming vessels offering 120,000 square feet for

HILTON—PAGE 5A

Parade caps off 'fun year'

BY BETSY GAGNET
What is it like to be on top of a float riding through the crowds of people all shouting for a pair of beads?

New Krewe of Nereids member Amy Goscinski found out last Sunday at the end of her first year in the carnival organization.

The parade capped off a year full of activities including several parties and of course the Nereids Ball.

Sometime last April, Goscinski attended her first function where each new member was introduced, and preparations began for the ball and the parade.

"We were measured from head to toe for costumes," Goscinski said. "Every possible measurement was taken and so was our picture."

Several other parties followed throughout the year, including the Tour of Homes.

Goscinski's home was part of the tour, visited by other members and friends.

She served gumbo made by Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre.

Around Halloween, the real work began for the new member.

"In October there is a meeting to find out what dance number you are in at the ball and

when the practices begin," Goscinski explained. "We started practices the first week of November."

Each year members perform dance numbers corresponding to that year's theme.

The 1997 theme was "Nereids Stays Home."

The practices are once a week for over an hour.

PARADE—PAGE 5A

Route change possible

BY RICHARD MEEK
Waveland city officials are considering asking officials of the Krewe of Nereids to change the parade route after a record crowd turned out for Sunday's parade.

Waveland Mayor John Mason admitted one suggestion would be for the parade to begin in Waveland and disband in Bay St. Louis, as it did several years ago. Currently, the majority of the parade route is on both sides of Highway 90 in Waveland.

"After everything settles down, I will contact the captain (of Nereids) and Bay St. Louis,

ROUTE—PAGE 5A



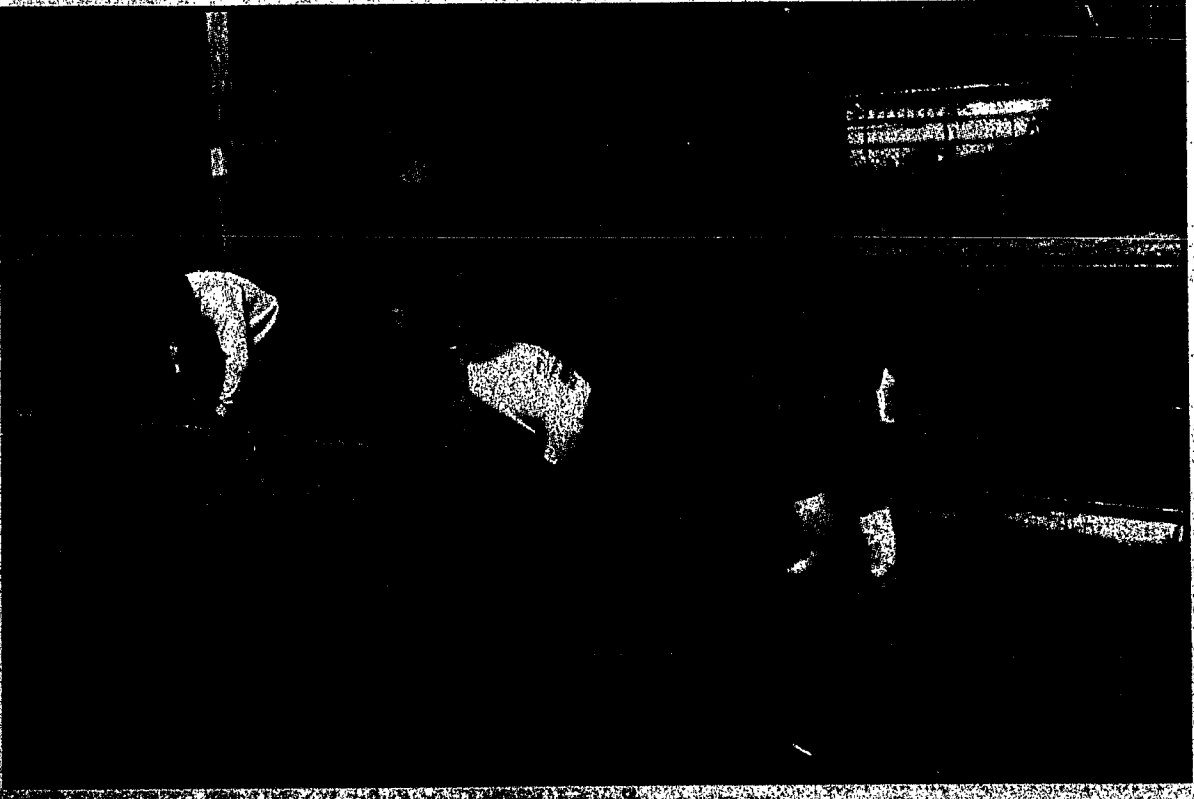
Krewe of Nereids member Amy Goscinski prepares for her first parade. The parade capped off a year of activities for the new member. (Echo staff photo by Betsy Gagnet)

Navy to locate at ammo plant

BY ED LEPOMA
While construction contracts and jobs from the giant Wellman Plant are helping to impact Hancock County's economy, U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor (D-Miss.) said more encouraging news might be on the way.

Taylor was in Bay St. Louis this week and came to the Board of Supervisors monthly meeting to brief them on a number of issues.

"It's not written in stone, but it looks like the Navy is going to locate the Ammunition Plant at the Wellman site," Taylor said.



Ken Matthew (shown with his hand in the muck) and several volunteers were forced to dig out the field Saturday at Joe D. McCullough Stadium so the Lady Tigers could play their soccer game. (Echo staff photo by Richard MEEK)

Soccer team moved again

BY RICHARD MEEK
Flooding problems caused by the construction of a new track at Joe D. McCullough Stadium continue to plague the Bay High soccer team.

The boys and girls teams lost two home dates earlier in the year to Harrison Central and St. John. Last night, the Lady Tigers' quarterfinal contest against Meridian had to be rescheduled to St. Stanislaus.

On Saturday, the top-ranked Lady Tigers were able to host Jim Hill in the playoff opener only after coach Ken Matthew and several volunteers pumped water off the field.

SOCCER—PAGE 5A

TIDES		
DAY	HIGH	LOW
Sat.	11:54 p.	10:45 a.
Sun.	12:48 a.	11:06 a.
Mon.	1:43 a.	10:46 a.
Tues.	2:43 a.	9:40 a.

County schools name architect

BY MARY G. SEILEY

With its schools' capacity "maxed out," Hancock County officials named an architectural team Monday to launch a major building and improvement program.

School Board President Cheryl Bennett said the newly named consultants began work on the \$15 million-\$20 million project Tuesday morning, amassing information that will be the basis of a bond issue to finance the building.

The bond issue's impact on taxpayers is uncertain at this point. "I'm sure it probably will necessitate a tax rate increase," said Bennett. However, the extent of the hike won't be known until plans for the size of the bond issue are firm and the financing rate is determined.

The program includes construction of a new middle school and elementary school, in addition to extensive renovations to the existing Hancock North Central Elementary School and new classrooms at Gulfview Elementary School.

After meeting in recent weeks with several architectural firms, the board Monday picked lead architects Taylor Guild and Gary Bailey, who are associated with different firms. That arrangement came at the suggestion of Guild himself, who said pooling the expertise of both men would pose a "win-win" situation for Hancock County.

The prospect of a double team approach broke what one board member, Larry Peterson, said was a "deadlock" among the board in picking either of the firms.

"What you've actually done is resolve something we've struggled with," Bennett told Guild.

While neither architect is based in Hancock County, Guild assured the board that subcontractors would be sought from this county, including use of some local architects.

Guild is with the Gulfport firm of Guild, Jaubert & Hardy. Bailey is with the Jackson firm of Johnson, Bailey, Henderson & McNeel. The team has agreed to a 5.7 percent project fee, although a final contract must go to the board for approval.

One of Bailey's specialties is in planning future growth needs, the board was told. Even without his forthcoming detailed study, however, Bennett said in an interview Tuesday there's a pressing demand for additional space.

Over the past six years, the system has absorbed an additional 1,600 students. "We're maxed out. Every classroom is full," she said.

Tentative plans call for construction of a new middle school near the Hancock High School campus on 15 to 20 acres the board hopes to acquire there. That would allow joint use of existing, costly athletic and vocational and technical education facilities there, she said.

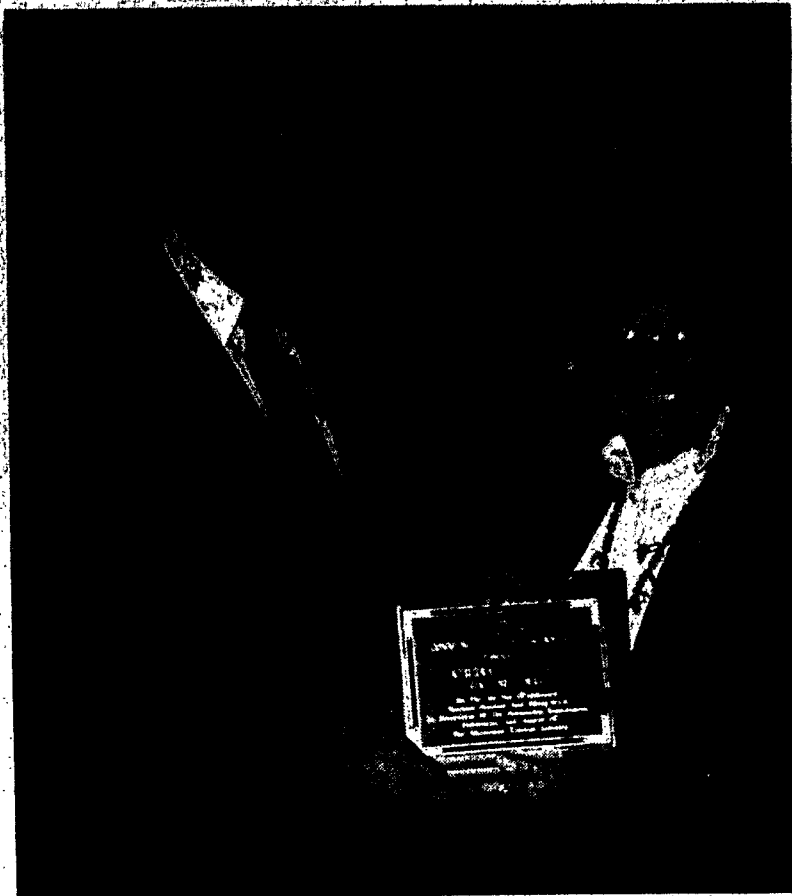
The new middle school would accommodate students in grades six through eight, relieving overcrowding at Hancock High. That relatively new school now has students in grades seven through 12. It would become a school for grades nine through 12.

Around 600 sixth graders who would have attended Hancock North Central Elementary will be placed in the new middle school, Bennett said, leaving Hancock North Central with room for growth. That school also is in line for some extensive renovations, including an asbestos removal program.

Upgrades also are planned for Gulfview Elementary School, where a cafeteria that was designed for 200 students must accommodate 800. Lunch at that school is served in shifts spanning from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bennett said in addition to a larger cafeteria, Gulfview will gain eight to 10 classrooms.

School officials hope to build a new elementary school in the Kiln vicinity for some 800 students, although a site has not been selected.

Bennett said architects will consider the prospects for a continued influx of new pupils to the county school system, including students from families moving to the area with Wellman Industries, potential casino openings and other businesses or industries that may be lured to the area through the Port and Harbor Commission's recruitment efforts.



Cuccullu honored

Pat Cuccullu of Bay St. Louis was presented the Community Volunteer Award by the Mississippi Tourism Promotion Association at the Governor's Conference on Tourism held at the Grand Casino Biloxi Hotel. Cuccullu has been a long-time volunteer in Hancock County, and helped form the Tourism Bureau. She is a member of the Hancock County Historical Society and a volunteer at the Hancock County Welcome Center.

Bond petition fails

BY ED LEPOMA

Not enough registered voters signed a petition, so there will be no election in the event the Board of Supervisors decides to float a \$6 million bond issue to pave county roads.

The Board met in regular session Monday, and reaffirmed the findings of Circuit Clerk Pam Metzler. Metzler and her deputy clerk, Kendra Flowers, had poured over 1,667 signatures collected by former supervisor Jerry Ladner.

State law mandates that 1,500 qualified voters were needed to call an election, but after closer examination, a total 520 signatures were disqualified for various reasons. That meant the petition fell short by 353 signatures.

Ladner was in the board meeting room as he was when Metzler first reported the disqualifications.

District 4 Supervisor Steve Seymour was the first to confront Ladner, when he again

claimed the bond issue with a vote of the people was in violation of U.S. and state constitutions and the Bill of Rights, and threatened to have supervisors indicted "for malfeasance in office."

"Do you know what it would cost to have an election," said Seymour. "We can't have an election on everything you're opposed to."

Board President Philip Moran told Ladner, "You're getting worked up over something that might never come to be."

Supervisors are having the numbers crunched to see whether they can blacktop unpaved county streets without raising property taxes.

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Several arrested during Nereids

BY RICHARD MEEK

Waveland police reported several arrests during the Krewe of Nereids parade on Sunday, including two juveniles.

The most serious arrest was that of Hubert Turan of Gulfport. Turan, 30, was charged with reckless driving, DUI, driving with a suspended license and failure to yield to blue lights. Turan was arrested on Waveland Avenue.

Bond was set at \$2,200, the highest of those arrested.

Two juveniles, both 17 and both residents of Bay St. Louis, were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. One was arrested at the corner of Highway 90 and Nicholson Avenue and the other at the corner of Highway 90 and Highway 603.

Lee Jones, 36, of Diamondhead, was charged with DUI and careless driving at the corner of Old Spanish Trail and Espana Park.

Adrian Parker, 18, of Waveland, was arrested on Old Spanish Trail and charged with possession of alcohol under the age of 21.

Robert Maurin, 34, of Bay St. Louis, was charged with public drunk. He was arrested at the corner of Highway 603 and Highway 90. Also at that corner, Dante Smith, 21, of Waveland, was charged with disorderly conduct.

Kendall Lanciaux, 22, of Bay

St. Louis, was charged with disorderly conduct after being arrested on Highway 90.

April Poche, 19, of Bay St. Louis, was charged with possession under the age of 21 and disorderly conduct. Nefertiti Lyons, 21, of Bay St. Louis, and Marissa Lyons, 28, of Bay St. Louis, were charged with disorderly conduct. Poche, Nefertiti Lyons and Marissa Lyons were arrested at Highway 90 and Highway 603.

On Russell Drive, Ted Dahl, 18, of Bay St. Louis, and Jason Abbott, 20, of Kiln, were arrested. Dahl was charged with disorderly conduct and Abbott with assault.

Bay wins flood trial

BY BETSY GAGNET

Bay St. Louis has won the trial of a case involving 1995 flooding of property.

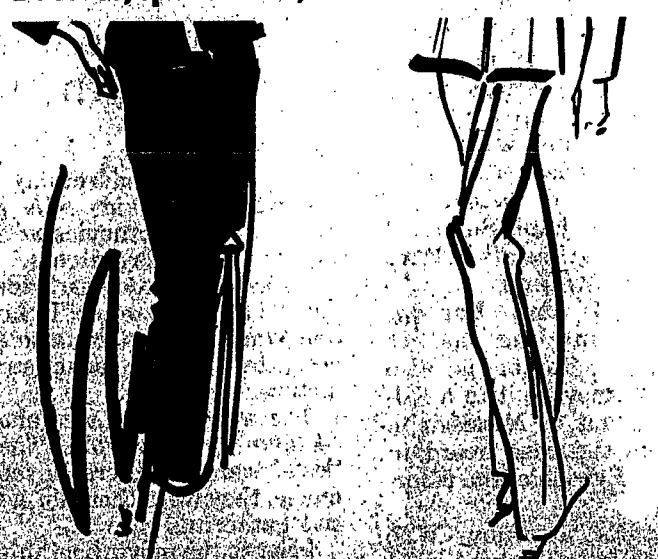
Judge William L. Stewart found in favor of the city in a lawsuit filed by Doreen Evans and James Robert Pease.

The plaintiffs filed suit in Chancery Court alleging their property was flooded in May 1995 as a result of the city's failure to maintain adequate drainage.

The plaintiffs alleged they sustained 13 inches of water in their home.

Following a trial, the judge ruled in favor of the city, awarding no damages to the plaintiffs.

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Forestry Program

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing a Forestry Incentive Program (FIP) sign-up beginning Monday, Feb. 24 and ending Friday, Feb. 28.

For sign-up or for more information contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Hancock County, Waveland (258-3220) or Ocean Springs (258-3220).

Hurry! Sale ends Soon!

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'CUEVAS' QUOTES

By Ellis C. Cuevas

Sunday was a nice day for the annual parade by the Krewe of Nereids. Thousands lined Highway 90 for the 31st parade by the lady organization.

You know, it was not until last Friday that I realized the Krewe of Nereids started the same year as the Super Bowl.

We have used the Roman numerals XXXI several times in recent issues with Nereids and the Super Bowl.

We did give the Super Bowl the most coverage in The Echo ever, and that was because of Hancock County's native son Brett Favre's participation.

The Super Bowl game, only 50 miles away, really added to the importance of the contest along with all of the Packer fans visiting The Kiln.

Brett's selection as *Most Valuable Player* for the second year in a row in the National Football League really added to the importance of the Super Bowl.

I did get to watch Brett on television do his thing again on Monday night at the Pro Bowl in Hawaii. Keep up the good work, Brett.

We are now in the middle of the Mardi Gras season. Several more parades, some large and others small, still are scheduled to roll within the next five days.

Friday will be the big parade day for the kindergarten students at Bay Catholic School.

Royalty for the Bay Catholic parade are Adriana Vargas, William R. Love Jr., Christopher Tebo and Kayla Crosby.

The parade begins at 12:30 p.m. and will start on Union Street by the school's playground and travel to Beach Boulevard, Beach to Court Street, Court to Second Street, Second to old City Hall in front of the school to disband.

The Mardi Gras parade is one of the highlights of the year for the Bay Catholic kindergarten students.

If you have a chance and are in the area, be a spectator, as the youngsters will really enjoy throwing you some beads.

Saturday will be the big parade day for the Krewe of Diamondhead Land parade.

Parade time is noon on Saturday for Diamondhead's parade, which starts at the Walking Track and travels The County Road (Golf Club Drive) to Kalani Drive, to East Aloha Drive, to West Aloha Drive.

The parade will cross over Interstate 10 to the Yacht Club for an after-the-parade party. Note: There will be no spectators allowed on the I-10 overpass.

The Diamondhead Land parade this year will be led by King Alii Honua XXII Edward Rosenhauer and Queen Diane Calhoun.

Bay St. Louis resident and United States Congressman Gene Taylor is the grand marshal for the Krewe of Diamondhead parade Saturday. Congressman Taylor had the honor to serve as grand marshal in 1987 when he was a state senator.

There are a lot of very good viewing areas for the Diamondhead parade, and it is really becoming a popular family viewing event.

I hope to see you at the Diamondhead parade Saturday.

Sunday is the big day for the St. Paul Carnival Association parade.

The Pass parade, which had the most entries along the Coast, is set to roll at 1 p.m.

On Mardi Gras Day, the Krewe of Real People will parade in the City of Bay St. Louis.

We will give you more information on the Pass and Real People parades in Sunday's edition.

Baseball players

During the 1930's baseball was a popular sport in Bay St. Louis, as Bertha Irene (Koch) Morris recalls. The photo above, taken in 1936, shows some of the Carroll Avenue players Morris reports. Those in photo in back of Morris are, from right, Bud Phillips, Leo Seal Jr., Donald Nelson, Emile Gex and someone unknown. (Photo courtesy of Bertha (Koch) Morris, formerly of Bay St. Louis, Diamondhead, who now resides in Covington, Louisiana.) The Echo welcomes photos older than 25 years for publication. They will be returned to their owners.

EYES ON MISSISSIPPI

By Bill Minor

Talk is cheap in politics

Talk is cheap they say in politics. But it may not be so cheap for Haley Barbour, the recently departed National Chairman of the Republican Party.

What started out as Barbour's idea of a GOP jibe at the Democrats last December 12 over their 1996 election campaign rhetoric alleging that Republicans were cutting Medicare, has now wound up in a bizarre lawsuit.

Barbour had offered in paid advertisements to pay \$1 million to the first person who could prove him wrong that the balanced budget bill did not increase Medicare spending by more than 50 percent from 1996 to 2002.

In the ad, Barbour is pictured holding a huge \$1 million check with accompanying language "I'm Haley Barbour. I'm willing to give you this check for \$1 million if you can prove me wrong."

U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor (D) of Mississippi's 5th District was the first to come forward on Dec. 15 and challenge Barbour's ad as false and to claim the \$1 million. Apparently 76 others also challenged the Barbour ad and demanded the money.

Taylor told Barbour in a Dec. 14 letter that while he did not challenge the part of his ad regarding Medicare, the assertion that the GOP-sponsored bill would "balance the budget" in fiscal 1996 was false.

The Gulf Coast congressman offered proof from the Congressional Budget Office to support his charge that Barbour's claim that the bill balanced the budget was wrong.

In fact, he showed CBO figures showing the budget would be out of balance by \$270 billion in 1996. He told Barbour to give the \$1 million to the University of Southern Mississippi Development Foundation.

In a snippy reply to Taylor on Dec. 19, Barbour said he had no intention of paying the \$1 million because Taylor's claim was not valid.

As Taylor related to me on a visit to the state Capitol last week, he decided to forget about the whole matter at that time. "Even though I knew I could win, I decided not to sue," he said.

Barbour's attorney, W. Goodman, Jr., of Jackson, said a number of the other defendants who live elsewhere around the country have called him in dismay that they were being sued. "Traditionally, I am not a litigious person," he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Runner raising money' story incorrectly titled

To the Editor:

On page 6 of the Feb. 2 issue of the Sea Coast Echo, there was an incorrect headline on the story about Mr. Allan Young, who is running a marathon (in Napa, Calif. March 2) with 25 other Mississippi runners.

The headline should have stated that Allan is running in the marathon to raise money for the Leukemia Society of America, and that he is running in honor of two Coast residents diagnosed with leukemia.

Runners from all over the United States are participating in the 26.2-mile marathon to financially aid the Society's research to find a cure for leukemia. These runners are

personally committed to running, and finishing, the marathon in honor of people they know who have leukemia.

Also, the last two lines of the article were omitted when it was published. Those wishing to support Allan's challenge to fight leukemia may send donations directly to the Leukemia Society of America at P. O. Box 12598, Jackson, MS 39286-2598. Please make the check payable to the Leukemia Society of America, and indicate "Allan Young TNT" on the check, as it represents his participation in the marathon to raise money for the Society. All donations are tax deductible.

Ruth Carlson
Bay St. Louis

Students seek post cards of state

Dear Editor:

My name is Stephanie White. I am a fifth grader in Naples, Fla.

Our class is writing letters to the editors of newspapers all across America.

We would like your readers to send us post cards of your beau-

tiful state. We think this is a great way to learn about America.

Your friend
Stephanie White

Room D-9

Big Cypress Elementary
3250 Golden Gate Blvd. West
Naples, FL 33964

Waveland resident proud to be resident of caring community

Dear Editor:

There are no words to express how grateful I am to live in such a loving and caring community.

Residents of Hancock County can be very proud of their hospital.

Hancock Medical is so clean, and everyone is so nice. Appreciation goes to Mobile Medic, Waveland Fire Department and the very close-to-my

heart Waveland Police Department, Dr. Sidney Chevis and his angel nurse, Nell.

Because of these people, prayers, five loving daughters and God, I am still here today.

We have a lot to be proud of in our community.

Sincerely,
Colleen Evans
Waveland

POA secretary responds to former v-p's letter

To the Editor:

Just one year ago, Mary Sinderson, then the vice-president of the Diamondhead Board of Directors, thought the State of Mississippi had made an error in Section 79-11-315, Mississippi Code of 1972.

The Sinder's Bill would have totally stripped the rights of Diamondhead members to have any voice in governing the organization we fund as members.

Now Ms. Sinderson, who herself is a lawyer, wants the membership to be responsible for the protection of the businesses outside the boundaries of Diamondhead.

Just whose side is Ms. Sinderson on? Certainly it appears she does not have the best interest of the membership and Diamondhead Property Owners Association in mind.

Security in Diamondhead is paid with assessments from all the membership. No part of the security fee is paid by the businesses outside Diamondhead.

These privately owned businesses are not a part of Diamondhead Property Owners

Association and never have been.

For the POA Board of Directors to continue to provide security for these businesses put a great liability risk squarely on the shoulders of the membership of Diamondhead.

The insurance the POA would have to provide to cover such protection would be very expensive, if it could be had at all, and would raise membership dues considerably.

It is not the responsibility of the Diamondhead membership to provide security for these businesses.

Nowhere in the United States do communities that surround shopping centers pay for the security of businesses operating in shopping areas.

It is an unheard of request. Businesses are responsible for protecting their customers no matter where their customers live.

Ms. Sinderson is WRONG again!

Sincerely,
Coella J. Longenecker
Secretary, Diamondhead POA

Parents should talk to kids about their movie conduct

Dear Editor:

This letter is addressing all the parents of kids who get dropped off at the movies on Friday and Saturday nights.

I was at the movies Friday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. to see "In Love and War." There were also about 40 teenagers to see the same picture.

The average age was about 14 and 15 years old. These "kids" were there to see a movie, they were there for a social gathering.

Prior to the movie beginning, they were running up and down the aisles and talking as though they were the only ones there.

Once the movie started, they grouped together and became very loud, and became very rowdy. I could hear them talking and laughing all the way through the movie.

They were very disrespectful to the movie, and to the people who were sitting next to them. They were very loud and very rowdy.

and they grouped back to resume their "party."

I hope all parents who drop their kids off read this problem. For those who may say, "Where are our kids supposed to go?"

You really don't think it is okay to let this continue, do you? If you are wondering if your kids are the ones, just ask them how was the movie? And what was it about?

I am writing a letter to the owners with a request to post a sign on the admittance window as well as each door to the movie house. Anybody talking or running will be asked to leave the movie house.

It is very disrespectful to the movie, and to the people who are sitting next to them. They are very loud and very rowdy.

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Hilton

Continued from Page 1A

gaming, a sports and entertainment center, an RV park and a nine-hole golf course.

"Hilton has the expertise, track record and personnel necessary to accomplish this task," said Vitale.

Lester Bullock, president of Europa, congratulated Vitale's efforts to develop a joint venture with Hilton, noting it is the

largest gaming company in the world.

"I think this is the most important step Europa has taken to date to maximize shareholder value," said Bullock.

Hilton Gaming Corp. owns and operates Bally's on the Lakeshore in New Orleans and in Tunica, and the Flamingo

gambling ship in New Orleans, in addition to three properties in Las Vegas.

Europa is one of the largest day cruise operators in the United States, operating four gaming ships and employing about 450. The company offers day and night cruises out of four ports located in Miami Beach,

Ft. Myers, Tierra Verde and Madeira Beach.

The news of a pending joint venture agreement was greeted enthusiastically by Philip Moran, president of the Hancock County Board of Supervisors.

He said the Diamondhead development will be "the biggest thing that has happened in

Hancock County" since the giant Wellman Plastics plant decided to locate at Port Bienvenue Industrial Park.

Moran said the casino development will affect all phases of life in Hancock County.

"Now, we will be able to go after sewerage grants, clean up the waters and pave the roads. It's a win-win situation."

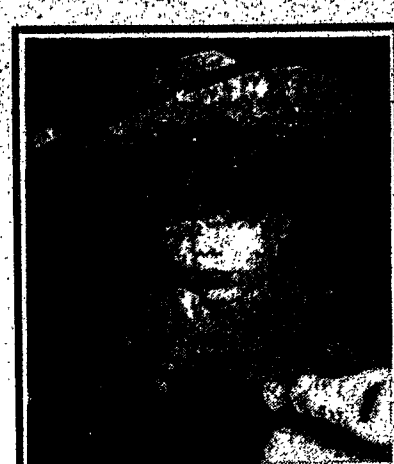
Moran also said he was not concerned about the outcome of a pending evidentiary hearing involving Casino World and the nearby Circus Circus/Pine Hill development before the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality.

The CEQ last month agreed by a 4-1 vote to issue water quality permits for the two developments, but bowed to pressure from citizens and environmental groups to hear formal testimony from opponents and proponents.

The permits were critical to both developments since they are required before developers can go before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to get permits for construction in wetlands.

Casino Magic in Bay St.

Louis, the sole operator of a gaming venture in Hancock County, has also entered the fracas, claiming it will prove both projects would adversely impact the environment and surrounding wetlands.



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Parade

Continued from Page 1A

"I've danced since I was two years old, so I really enjoyed all of it," she said.

The weekend of the ball is spent practicing with a final dress rehearsal at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Goscinski explained that it is just before the final dress rehearsal that the identities of the maids become known to

members.

"If someone does not show up to get dressed for the last practice, it means they are a maid," she said. "It's really fun. They come in and pretend to get dressed and then they sneak off."

The identities of the maids and the queen are never made public.

The ball goes into the wee hours of the morning, ending with a supper dance.

Once the ball is over, it was on to the parade.

"I really didn't know how I was going to like riding in the parade," Goscinski said. "I spent about \$300 on throws, but I didn't know how much was enough. I had beads, ani-

mals, peanuts, visors, cups, hugs and posters."

The morning of the parade Goscinski was nervous in the true spirit of a first time rider.

Hanging her beads on the float she said she was excited, but afraid she wouldn't be able to spot people she knew, including her family.

During the parade, the float came to a stop and Goscinski stopped throwing as members had been instructed to do for safety reasons.

"All of a sudden someone next to me told me a man was calling my name," she said. "When I looked up, it was my entire family, including my husband and kids, my parents and aunts and uncles."

The parade ride was phenomenal Goscinski said, although the beginning of it left her a little intimidated.

"When we pulled out and I saw all of those people all yelling, it was a bit overwhelming," she said. "After I got the hang of it, I really enjoyed it."

It was the end of a year full of functions and new experiences and Goscinski said she loved it.

"It's been a lot of fun and I've met a lot of new people that I otherwise would not have met," she said. "It's also been a lot of work, but well worth it. I loved the excitement."

Route

Continued from Page 1A

and address some of the problems," Mason said. "It was a super large crowd this year, and there were a few problems."

"There are a lot more folks from other towns," he added. "It's just not the people of Waveland."

Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre said he would welcome the parade into the city. He said there has been some concern in past years about both sides of Highway 90 being closed for an extended period.

"I would like to meet with Waveland and Nereids to see about not blocking both sides of the highway," Favre said. "Now, with the tremendous

amount of people, there's so much more traffic. It's a bad situation."

"I'm not sure where to start and begin the parade," he added.

Mason also expressed concern about the amount of post-parade trash, which in some spots was ankle deep. However, by midday, Waveland city crews had cleaned up the majority of the debris.

"There was an unbelievable amount of trash," Mason added. "But our city crews did a fantastic job."

In the wake of several arrests during the parade, city officials

are evaluating their ordinances restricting the use of glass bottles, and governing the behavior of dogs and children on bicycles during the parade. Police reported 12 arrests but most were for minor charges.

"There were no major things," Mason said. "Just the normal things with a large crowd like that."

Some problems were also reported with people who brought their dogs along the parade route.

"We have to look at the situation with the dogs," Mason said. "The parade route is not a place to bring dogs. The dogs get excited, and you never know what will happen, especially with children around. It's not a very good situation."

Navy

Continued from Page 1A

Resources (personnel) operations now spread over four states, and transfer 300 to 350 highly-paid civilian personnel into the area.

A number of people, including Taylor have spent considerable hours and manpower attempting to lure the Navy to the huge largely underused Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant, located at the Stennis Space Center. Also involved in the negotiations are: Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott; the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development; and the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission.

Last May, supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Navy to consider the Stennis location.

The Defense Department has allocated \$8 million for the move and consolidation, and estimates are the Navy would require at least 65,000 square feet of office space.

Taylor also told supervisors to select sites and "formally re-

quest" recycled rip rap to develop artificial fishing reefs off the beaches of Hancock County.

Supervisors had looked into the possibility and picked some sites some time ago, but sidetracked efforts after deciding it would be too costly to move the concrete from its storage area at the Harrison County Industrial Seaway.

Taylor also suggested that supervisors contact his office and get on a list for fire trucks and other equipment designated as surplus by the General Services Administration.

He said the U.S. Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg currently has some surplus barges.

Board President Philip Moran said the county might be able to get one of the barges and use it to haul the rip rap.

District 2 Supervisor Rocky Pullman asked Taylor to look for federal funds to extend sewerage South of Interstate 10, and also to help clean up contamination recently identified at Stennis.

Soccer

Continued from Page 1A

"The field would have been more of an embarrassment without all of the help from parents and other volunteers," Matthew said. "I don't know if we could have played (at Bay High) without their help."

Bay St. Louis city crews brought in two loads of dirt, and the school brought in another to help make the field playable.

Bay High Athletic Director Debbie Triplett said Stanislaus is allowing use of the field at no charge to the school. However, there will be no concession stands, meaning the loss of several hundred dollars for the soccer team's booster club, which operates the concession stand at the Bay High stadium.

Some controversy over the field arose in late spring when school board members were informed of the potential for a problem with the field. School board members were informed of the potential for a problem with the field. School board members were informed of the potential for a problem with the field.

Ronnie Artigues Jr. said he has made an offer of \$25,000 to Southwest to settle a dispute over payment of a second change order. Southwest officials had originally submitted a first change order of \$34,000, which the district paid.

Company officials submitted a second change order for \$35,000, insisting additional fill was needed.

However, Artigues said a provision in the contract stated that any additional fill and excavation work would not exceed \$34,100.

At the center of the dispute is whether the fill work was "additional" or "unforeseen." Artigues said the district's contention that it was "additional," which would require Southwest to pick up the tab.

West already authorized the first change order payment, Artigues said. Then the company officials came in and said more was needed.

Artigues said the company's position is that the contract obligated it to pay. The \$25,000 offer is a compromise, he said.

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SPORTS

THE SEA COAST ECHO—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1997-7A

BETWEEN THE LINES

By Richard Meek

The New Orleans Saints' handwagon is riding to capacity once more.

The naysayers that bailed during the dredges of the past several seasons immediately reboarded after the announcement that Mike Ditka would become the new curator of the Saints' fortunes.

Fleur-de-lis euphoria is permeating a city already in an emotional tizzy over the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras. But be aware Saints fans, today's giddiness is tomorrow's blues.

For history will prove that not only will Ditka not be the vaccine to the Saints' ills, but that he will be one more setback to a franchise apparently intent on remaining mired in mediocrity.

Granted, Ditka is returning to the site of his Super Bowl victory. But his Chicago Bears won the Super Bowl only because it possessed one of the best defenses in league history. The architect of that defense was not Ditka, but one of his assistants, another ego-driven coach, Buddy Ryan.

Without Ryan, there is no Super Bowl.

Conceding the credentials, however, Ditka is revisiting a

game he has not coached on a professional level since 1992. The NFL landscape has changed dramatically since a heart condition forced him to what many thought would be a permanent residence on the sidelines.

Free agency and the salary cap are two potentially terminal hurdles Ditka did not have to contend with in Chicago. Ditka, much like his predecessor in New Orleans, Jim Mora, is from the old school of coaching and places a great deal of emphasis on loyalty.

But given the current free market conditions, a player's stay in any one city will seldom last longer than a cup of coffee. If a player is unhappy in San Diego today, he calls his agent and next year he's in Seattle. Additionally, Ditka's motivation by intimidation style is ineffective in the modern era. With the surly attitude of today's athletes, plus the lottery-type dollars being tossed around, the traditional hard-line approach is antiquated.

Today's standards call for "a player's coach." Translated, the tail is wagging the dog.

Ditka's exile from the game will also prove to be a formidable foe. If his hires are an example, the fiery, cigar-smoking coach is indeed living on

able. If his hires are an example, the fiery, cigar-smoking coach is indeed living on

Why else would he bring back a coach, Dick Stanfel, that once served as interim coach in the Mecom era? And the appointment of Danny Abramowicz as offensive coordinator is questionable best.

Ditka no doubt still has the intensity to be a winner. But his boot camp mentality, and visions of the past will not pass muster in today's league.

However, give owner Tom Benson just credit for a stroke of genius. His hiring of Ditka brought instant marketability to a fan base that had eroded to record lows. Overnight, Iron Mike changed fans' attitudes from apathy to mania.

One is left to wonder, however, if the hiring of Ditka is not the first step in a Benson agenda that would help the owner ultimately unload the franchise. It may be that Benson is hoping to right the Saints' financial ship, then sell to the highest bidder.

If the owner was committed to bringing a winner to New Orleans, would he have really promoted Bill Kuharich? The last we saw of Kuharich, he was preparing to tell the media that Chet Franklin would be named interim coach in the wake of Mora's sudden October

resignation.

There was only one problem, though. Kuharich neglected to consult with Franklin, who thumbed his nose at the job.

Now, after that public relations fiasco, both Kuharich and Franklin are rewarded with promotions.

Is this the Good Saints Lollipop?

Meanwhile, Green Bay offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis sits alone in frigid Wisconsin, sitting by a silent phone. He deserves a chance.

That opportunity should have come in New Orleans.

Ditka the wrong choice



Hawks ink with PRCC

Alan Thompson (left) and Jimmy Jones of Hancock High School signed scholarships on Wednesday morning with Pearl River Community College. Thompson was an outstanding defensive lineman for the Hawks, and Jones an excellent running back. Looking on is Hancock principal David Kopf (left) and Hawk coach Rocky Gaudin (right). Hawk defensive lineman Jud Necaise signed with Samford College. (Echo staff photo by Richard Meek)

New requirements for boat operators

Effective July 1, persons born after June 30, 1980 and operating a motorboat required to be rammered in Mississippi, must first successfully complete a boating safety course. Boating safety courses must be approved by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

The new law requires such persons, while operating a motorboat, to have a course completion certificate in their possession. The new law does not apply to a person operating a motorboat rented from a person engaged in the business of renting motorboats.

Boating safety classes are currently being scheduled in various locations throughout the state.

For more information about boat safety, call the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks at (601) 368-1000.



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Pass Christian artist John T. McDonald has just released his latest print titled

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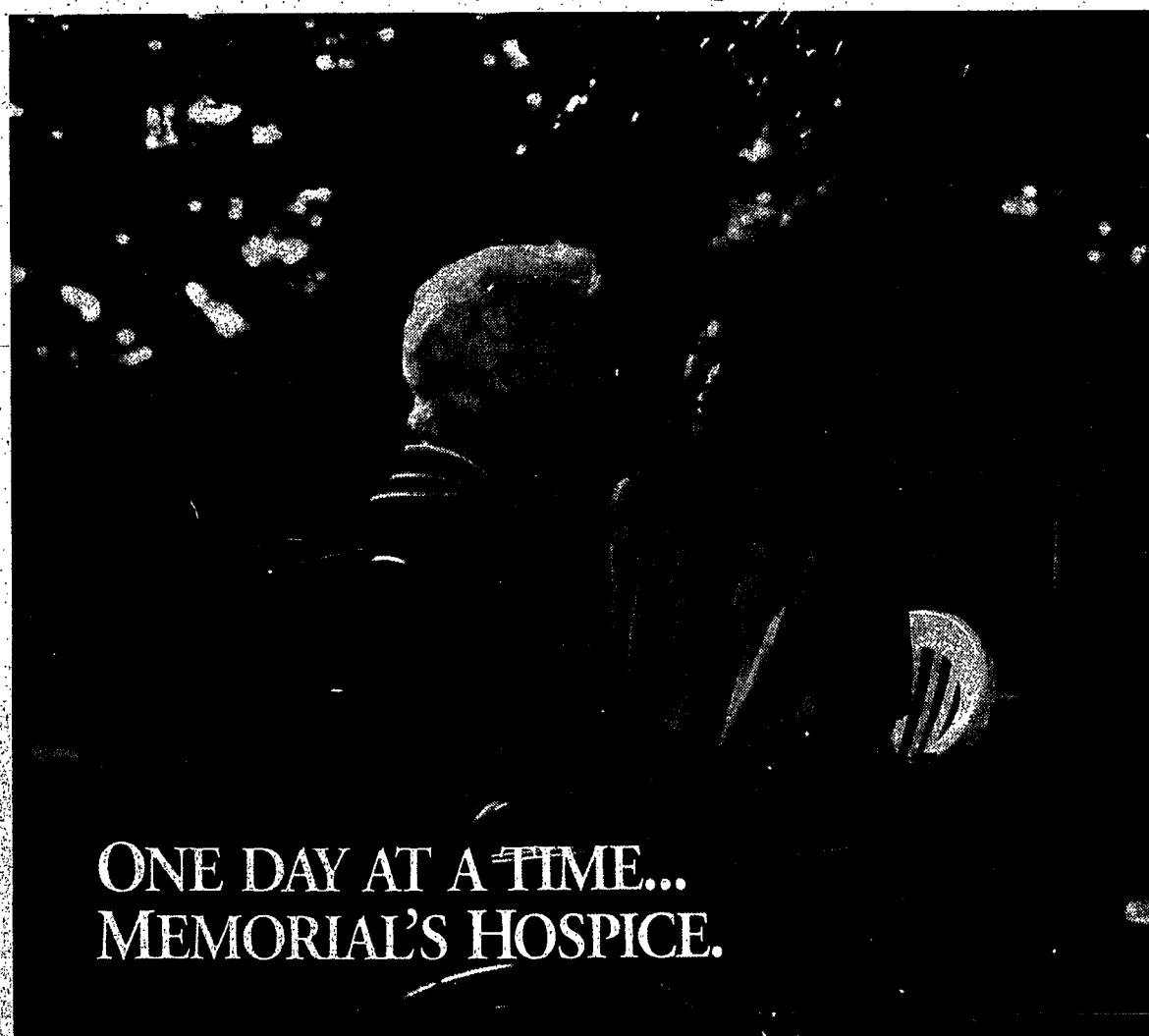
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Bay High wins; victory may be costly

BY RICHARD MEEK
Bay High extended its winning streak to 24 games on Tuesday night, but the Lady Tigers' playoff fortunes may well rest with an off the court decision.

Bay High standout Alicia Gavnigie was ejected early in the third quarter of a 50-37 victory over Hancock at Hancock on Tuesday night. The ejection carries an automatic two-game suspension, meaning Gavnigie will have to sit out the regular season finale against Ocean Springs on Friday, and the semifinals of the Division 7, 4A tournament next week at Bay High.

Gavnigie was ejected with 6:40 remaining in the third quarter after she and Maranda Cuevas of Hancock tangled chasing a loose ball. The referee ruled that Gavnigie had kicked Cuevas, and immediately called a technical foul and ejected the

Bay High forward. Cuevas was charged with a personal foul. "I will fight it," Bay High coach Debbie Triplett said. "It was the wrong call. Both players should have been given technicals."

Bay High, 24-2, 8-1, won the regular season title and an automatic berth in the division semifinals. The tournament begins Monday at the Tigerdome. The Lady Tigers are the defending champions.

"I am going to have to figure out who we will play in what position," Triplett said of her plans if the school loses the appeal. The appeal will be filed with the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

"It's a big concern," she added. "We will have to play kids out of position."

"If we don't have kids step forward, our season could be over."

Hancock ended the regular

season 15-10, 5-5. Depending on the bracket, it is possible the Lady Hawks could have a rematch with Bay High in the semifinals should they win their first round game. Hancock defeated Bay High in the Hancock County Tournament on Nov. 6, but lost both division games to the Lady Tigers.

"I want another chance to play Bay High," Lady Hawk coach Sandy Albright said. "I feel pretty good about the way we are playing. After Christmas we struggled, but we have played well the past few games."

"Hopefully, we are getting on a little roll."

A combination of poor Bay High shooting, and a hustling Hancock defense kept the game close throughout the first half. Hancock had taken a 14-10 lead but a pair of Chanda Haley free throws and layup tied it with seconds remaining in the first quarter.

But it was Gavnigie's ejection that appeared to rejuvenate the lethargic Lady Tigers.

Bay High led 24-21 at the half and was leading 38-21 when Gavnigie, whose only two points came on a pair of first quarter free throws, was ejected. After a Lady Hawk free throw, Bay High went on a 12-2 run to end the quarter and take a 38-24 lead.

Hancock's only third quarter points came on free throws. In the second and third quarters, the Lady Hawks only scored a combined two field goals.

But the Tigers were only able to score 10 second quarter points and 14 in the third.

"We did not shoot well," Triplett said. "We were a little flat. The kids knew they were in first place and we played hard at Petal (on Saturday)."

The Lady Tigers stretched the lead to 42-26 with 6:46 remaining. Hancock came within 10 after a 4-0 run but Haley

closed it out by making six consecutive free throws in the final minutes.

"We kept fighting," Albright said. "They wanted this game. (Haley) is an all-around athlete. She moves her body well. The best athlete I have to match up with her is Jessica (Pucheu) and she's small."

Haley led all scorers with 31 points. She also grabbed 10 rebounds. Christina Bradley added 10 points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

"As long as we were going into Chanda, (Hancock) couldn't stay with us," Triplett said. "Then we got away from that."

"In that situation, she wants the ball. She will take charge," Triplett said. Haley will have to continue to be a leader in Gavnigie's absence.

"She has to rebound, play offense, and play more defense," Triplett said. A decision on Gavnigie may come as early as this week.

Picheu led Hancock with 12 points.

Stevie Lizana scored 17 points to lead Bay High to a 48-38 victory and complete the sweep. The Tigers are 10-14, 5-7.

Lizana also had 14 rebounds. Donnie Carver led Hancock, 1-19, 1-11, with 10 points.

St. Martin 70, Pass Christian Lady Pirates 42 - Mandy Theobald scored 21 points in Pass Christian's loss at St. Martin.

The Lady Pirates, 7-19, close out the regular season on Friday by playing host to Long Beach.

St. Martin 66, Pass Christian 57 - The Yellow Jackets rallied from a first half deficit to defeat visiting Pass Christian.

St. Martin trailed 31-25 at the half but took control in the third period with a 23-11 run. Joe Ingram scored 15 points and Rudy Bell 11 for the Pirates, 11-11.

Mercy Cross girls 39, Our Lady Academy 26 - Jessica Keller scored 11 points in the Crescents' loss at Mercy Cross. OLA fell to 1-5, 0-2.

Matt Kopfler scores 33 for Rocks in Division 7, 4A upset of Petal

BY RICHARD MEEK
St. Stanislaus secured a second seed in next week's Division 7, 4A tournament with a 57-55 victory over Petal Monday night at Stanislaus.

The Rocks will enter the tournament, which begins Monday at Bay High, as the number two seed behind top seeded Picayune. A loss to Petal, and SSC, two-time defending champion, may have dropped as low as the fourth seed.

Stanislaus ended the division regular season with a 9-3 record. The Rocks close out the regular season Friday night at Gulfport.

"This was a huge win," said Stanislaus coach Jay Ladner. "It assures us of second place, and we had lost two in a row coming in."

The Rocks escaped a potential third consecutive loss with a fourth quarter rally. SSC had led for much of the contest, but the visiting Panthers' defense in command when the Rocks

frontcourt of Mike Fenasci and Matt Kopfler were forced to the bench with foul trouble.

SSC led 30-24 with 5:30 left in the third quarter when Fenasci picked up his fourth foul. Four minutes later, SSC still held a seven-point lead when Kopfler was whistled for his fourth.

Petal took advantage of the Rocks' lack of depth and went on a 12-4 run, taking a 41-40 lead with 7:19 remaining on Tootie Myers' three-pointer.

The Panthers would build the lead to 46-41 at the 5:25 mark on another Myers' trey.

Ladner was forced to insert both of his big men back into the game, and SSC responded. The Rocks cut the lead to 50-49 on Honore Hazeur's three-pointer with 2:18 left, and following a Petal turnover, took the lead on Kopfler's three-pointer with 1:30 left. It would be the eighth and final lead change.

Derek Bradley put away with 6:5 seconds remaining on a

pair of three throws. "When (Kopfler) went out, we got behind," Ladner said. "I had to put him a little earlier than I wanted in the fourth quarter. We need him for us to be successful."

Kopfler scored a game-high 33 points, including 20 in the second half. He made 11 of 13 free throws, and his number of attempts was one more than the entire Petal team. Kopfler also grabbed nine rebounds and recorded two steals.

Bradley had 13 points and nine rebounds.

All five Petal starters placed in double figures, led by Chris Marshall with 14 points. Myers, Fabian Moody, Gary Reed and Shane Hogan had 10 each.

"This win should give us a lot of confidence," Ladner said. "Petal is a good team. And we got in so much foul trouble. But we hung in there and survived a run."

SSC trailed 15-14 at the end of one quarter, but held the Panthers to six second quarter points to take a 28-21 halftime lead. Hogan, the Panthers' center, scored six first quarter points but picked up his second foul with six minutes remaining in the first period.

Myers scored only two first quarter points before being whistled for his third foul with 2:58 remaining. The Panthers had only two first half free throws attempts, and those came midway through the second quarter.

The Rocks were 10 of 12 from the line in the first half, 8 of 10 in the first period.

Kopfler continued his torrid scoring with a 31-point effort in a 67-51 victory over Mercy Cross Tuesday night at Mercy Cross.

Derek Bradley added 16 points and Paul Farve 10 for the Rocks, 20-8.

Clinton stops OLA, 6-1

BY RANDY PONDER
The Our Lady Academy Crescents soccer season came to an end Saturday in Clinton in the

Boat safety class

The District Six office of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has released the schedule of boat and water safety classes to be held throughout the district.

All classes are available at no charge for anyone desiring to increase knowledge of boat and water safety.

These classes meet new state requirements for persons born after June 30, 1980 and operating a motorboat in Mississippi. The new regulations become effective July 1, 1997.

All classes last six hours. Participants are required to attend the entire class and successfully pass a written examination.

To register for these classes, or to check for seating availability, contact the number given for that class.

For information, the new regulations, or the alternative home study boat and water safety course, contact the District Six field office of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks at 1-800-670-9616.

The class schedule:
Pearl River County: April 26, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m., Old River WMA Headquarters, 772-9024
Hancock County: May 3, 9 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m., Buccaneer State Park, Waveland, 467-3822

Harrison County: May 10, 1-7 p.m., Red Creek WMA Headquarters, 928-4296

Stone County: May 17, 1-7 p.m., Stone County Cooperative Extension Office, Wadley, 928-4296

Wilcox County: June 3, 1-7 p.m., Wilcox County Extension Office, Vidalia, 928-4296

opening round of the state playoffs.

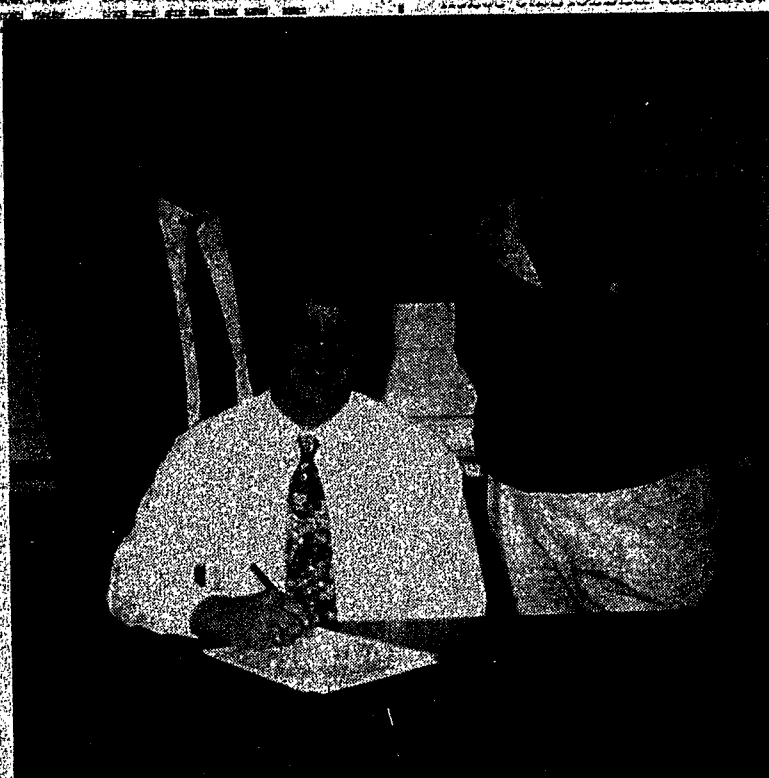
For the second straight year, the Lady Arrows have eliminated the Crescents. This time by a score of 6-1.

"Something about that Clinton field jinxes us," OLA coach Karen Hunt said. "The game was closer than the score indicates. We had many shots on goal, but just couldn't score."

The Crescents scored first on a direct kick by Erin Favre. Clinton rallied for a 3-1 half-time lead, and put the game away with three more goals in the second half.

"We have a young team. Most of the teams we faced were bigger and stronger," Hunt stated. "We had a really good season. The team came together with a lot of hard work from both the players and the parents."

OLA finishes the year with an 11-6 record. "We're looking forward to next year. The girls are already talking about it."



Necaise signs

Hancock standout defensive lineman Jud Necaise signed a scholarship with Sanford College on Wednesday. Looking on is Hancock principal David Kopf (left) and Hawk coach Rocky Gaudin. (Echo staff photo by Richard Meek)

NOTICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

Applications are now being taken for the Hancock County Sheriff's Department.

Applicants must conform to the Civil Service requirements in regard to age, residency, etc. You may pick up your Employment Application at the Hancock County Sheriff's Department between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applications must be complete and received no later than February 27, 1997.

Entrance exam for the Sheriff's Department will be given April 8, 1997 at 6:00 p.m. for the test of Correctional Officer, Telecommunications Officer and Road Officer. The testing will take place at the Hancock County Civic Center on Longfellow.

The County of Hancock does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicap in its employment practices.

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Bay High downs Meridian in OT

BY RANDY PONDER

In a thrilling come-from-behind victory, Bay High School earned a return trip to Jackson and a berth in the state soccer semifinals, beating Meridian 3-1 in a shootout Wednesday night. The game was played at St. Stanislaus because of unplayable field conditions at the Tigers' field.

"Win or lose, this was a great game," Lady Tiger coach Ken Matthew said. "It was a defensive battle from the start. It could have gone either way."

With her team trailing 1-0 early in the second half, Amanda Kingston broke free down the left sideline and fired the ball towards the goal. Several Meridian players apparently screened their goalie on the play and the ball rolled in to tie the game.

That's the way regulation ended, forcing an overtime, consisting of two, 10-minute

halves. Neither team scored in the first overtime, bringing on a sudden death overtime. This consisted of two, five-minute halves.

The second overtime also ended without any scoring, forcing a shootout, where each team selects five players to take turns shooting on goal.

In the shootout, Kingston went first for Bay High and scored on a hard line drive past the Meridian keeper.

On its ensuing turn, Meridian tied the score. The next two kicks for each team were blocked. Michelle Perniciaro then connected on the Lady Tigers' fourth kick to put Bay High on top.

Keeper Sky Thomas then made a diving save to prevent Meridian from scoring. Michelle Carbon took the Lady Tigers final shot, drilling the ball past the Meridian keeper for the clinching goal.

"I started thinking halfway through the game that we were headed for a shootout," Matthew stated. "A shootout makes me real nervous, but then I think about our goalie and calm down a bit. This was our third of the year, we've won them all and Sky Thomas has come through for us each time. She is a seventh grader, only 12 years old. For her to step up to the plate and do what she has done is really remarkable."

Meridian coach Pat Ross said, "This was a game between two very good teams which played very hard. The game became a war in the second half. You don't win a war, you survive it. When you get into a shootout, anything can happen."

This is the second straight year the Lady Tigers have eliminated Meridian in the second round of the state playoffs.

Matthew noted that the same

teams as last year have reached the final four in the girls playoffs, Bay High, Clinton, Vicksburg and Tupelo.

Bay High, the defending South State champion, will face the Clinton Lady Arrows Friday at 6 p.m. at Clinton High School near Jackson. The top-ranked Tigers are 17-0-2.

Meridian ended the season 13-6.

"These girls want another shot at the state title," Matthew said. "Clinton is an awesome team. They pass well, play very physically and are fast. We intend to take the game to them, to use the same basic game plan that's worked for us all year. I scouted their game Tuesday in Ocean Springs, they look good."

Last season, the Lady Tigers beat Clinton to advance to the championship game where they lost to Vicksburg.

St. Stanislaus reaches semi-finals; looking to repeat as state champs

BY RANDY PONDER

The St. Stanislaus Rock-A-Chaw soccer team has opened the 1997 playoffs with two convincing wins in their quest to repeat as Class II state champions.

The Rocks shut out visiting Northeast Lauderdale, 4-0, Saturday afternoon and handed Florence (14-1) their first loss of the season, 5-2, Tuesday night in Rock-A-Chaw Stadium.

They will face West Lauderdale Friday, 6 p.m., at Hinds Community College in Raymond for the South State Championship. The winner will play the next day for the overall state Class II title.

"We play to win," coach Tim Burns stated. "This team is getting a reputation for playing as hard as any team has ever played at this school. They started the year with just one thing in mind, to repeat as state champions. They want it."

Against the previously undefeated Florence Eagles, the Rocks dominated, using well-executed passing to control the ball. The team built a 3-0 half-time lead. The Eagles scored on a penalty kick early in the sec-

ond half, but St. Stanislaus quickly answered with a goal of their own.

Another penalty kick allowed Florence to cut the Rock advantage to 4-2, but not to be denied, St. Stanislaus charged back with another goal to ground the Eagles 5-2.

Robbie Morrison and Justin Wadsworth scored twice each for the 13-6-5 Rocks. Jonathan Gagnon accounted for the other St. Stanislaus goal.

"They intimidated us at first," Florence coach Stanley Shows said. "We are not accustomed to their aggressive type play in the Jackson area. It took us a half to settle down. By then the game was out of hand."

Florence is a mid-sized 3A school located about 10 miles south of Jackson.

The Rocks also dominated in their 4-0 victory over the Northeast Lauderdale Trojans. "We came out and put pressure on them early," Burns said. "We had a good scouting report, and they played pretty much as we expected. Our skill level was probably a little better than theirs, and we were a little quicker."

The Rock-A-Chaws were up three to zip at halftime, behind goals from Jonathan Gagnon, Philippe Michel and Robbie Morrison.

The fourth Rock goal came on a corner kick from Justin Wadsworth which sailed into the net untouched early in the second half.

Wadsworth took advantage of a Trojan mental lapse on the kick. On the previous play, the Northeast Lauderdale goalie had defended on a drive that carried out of bounds near the sideline resulting in the St. Stanislaus corner kick. Instead of hustling back to the goal, the keeper had his back to Wadsworth, walking towards the net. The alert Rock-A-Chaw player, seizing his opportunity, quickly set the ball and booted it straight into the open net.

"That was good thinking on his part, a good play," Burns said of Wadsworth.

Neil Favre recorded the shut-out in goal for St. Stanislaus.

Northeast Lauderdale coach Brett Grantham's team finished the season at 10-3. This was the first time they were shut out this season. "We were a

little intimidated at first, playing the defending state champions," Grantham said. "It was a good game. Both teams played well. They are a lot faster and have better soccer skills. They also have more experience. It was a good learning experience for us."

For his team to repeat as state champions, Burns said, "We have to play consistent, play with intensity, enthusiasm and stay focused on the goal at hand. It's a simple game."

Friday's opponent, West Lauderdale (11-2) reached the semi-finals by surprising Bay High 1-0 in the opening round on a second chance penalty kick and a 2-1 win over Mercy Cross Tuesday night in Biloxi.

Lady Tigers beat Jim Hill 14-0; advance in state soccer playoffs

BY RANDY PONDER

The defending South State Champion Bay High School Lady Tiger soccer team blasted Jim Hill 14-0 on a sloppy field Saturday in the opening round of the state playoffs at Joe D. McCullough Stadium.

"It was an easy game, but we still played well," coach Ken Matthew stated. "There was not a lot of pressure on us after the first few minutes of the game, the other team was never a threat."

The Lady Tigers scored almost at will, running up a 7-0 halftime lead against the mismatched Jim Hill team.

Taking advantage of the huge lead, Matthew was able to play his bench for most of the second half.

"Our trouble all year has been putting away the other team. We have been in a lot of close games, and I haven't been able to get as much playing time for our younger players as I had

hoped," Matthew explained.

"We can't drop back and say we played good today and take it easy. It's going to be tough to reach the finals. There are some good teams left. People play us hard because of our number one ranking. Everyone wants to get us," the coach added.

"I am fortunate to have a good group of girls. Our players will often pass up an open shot and pass to a teammate. To me, that's real sportsmanship. This team plays 'we' ball, not 'me' ball," Matthew said.

The game was played on a wet and muddy field. Matthew and others worked most of Saturday morning pumping water from the field and spreading sand over the worst spots. "I'm not sure we could have played this game on this field without all the volunteer help this morning," Matthew stated.

This is Jim Hill's second year to field a soccer team. Coach Greg Kelly said that only one of

his players had any prior experience. They finished second, behind Clinton, in their division with a record of three wins and three losses. Kelly added that his team was, "having fun and learning the game." The Lady Arrows of Clinton only beat them 7-0. "They were our friends," the Jim Hill coach said.

Michelle Perniciaro led the Lady Tiger scoring parade with three goals. Andie Fillingame, Amanda Kingston and Ashley Ponder each scored two goals. Mea Bordes, April Griffin, Rachel Perniciaro, Lindsey Piazza and Jennifer Storey rounded out the scoring with one goal each.

For most of the second half, coach Matthew moved his goalie, seventh grader Sky Thomas, to forward and moved Andie Fillingame to goal.

The Lady Tigers remain undefeated with 16 wins and two ties. They have outscored their opposition by a combined 92-5.

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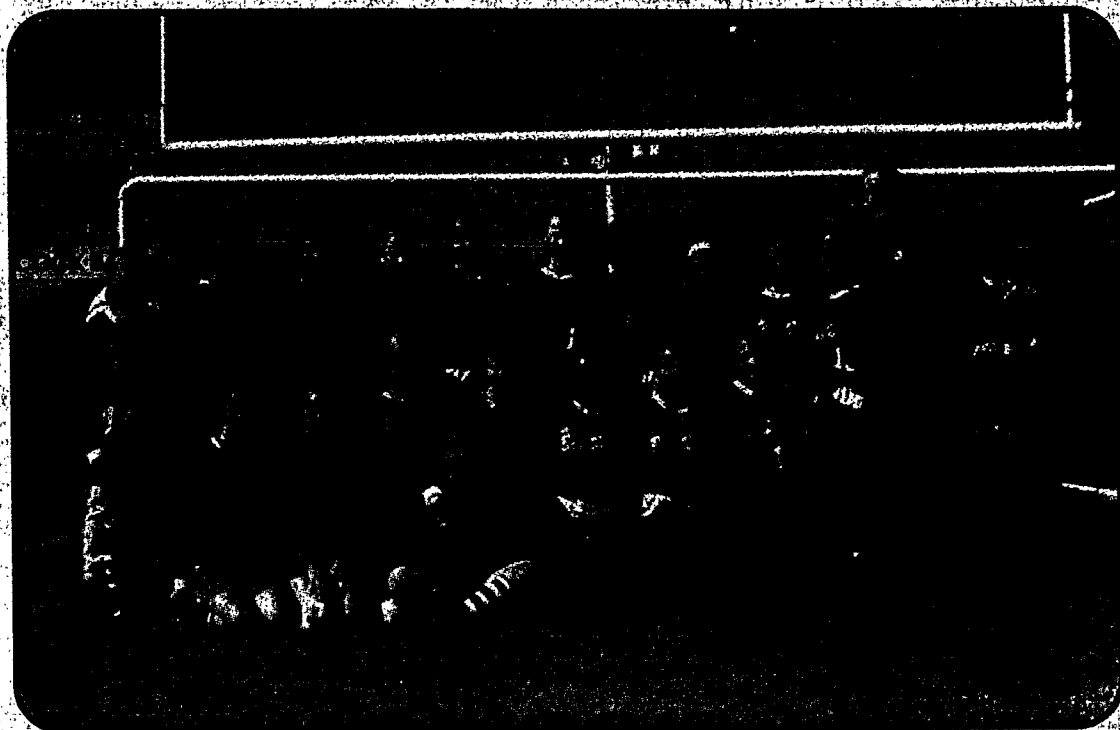
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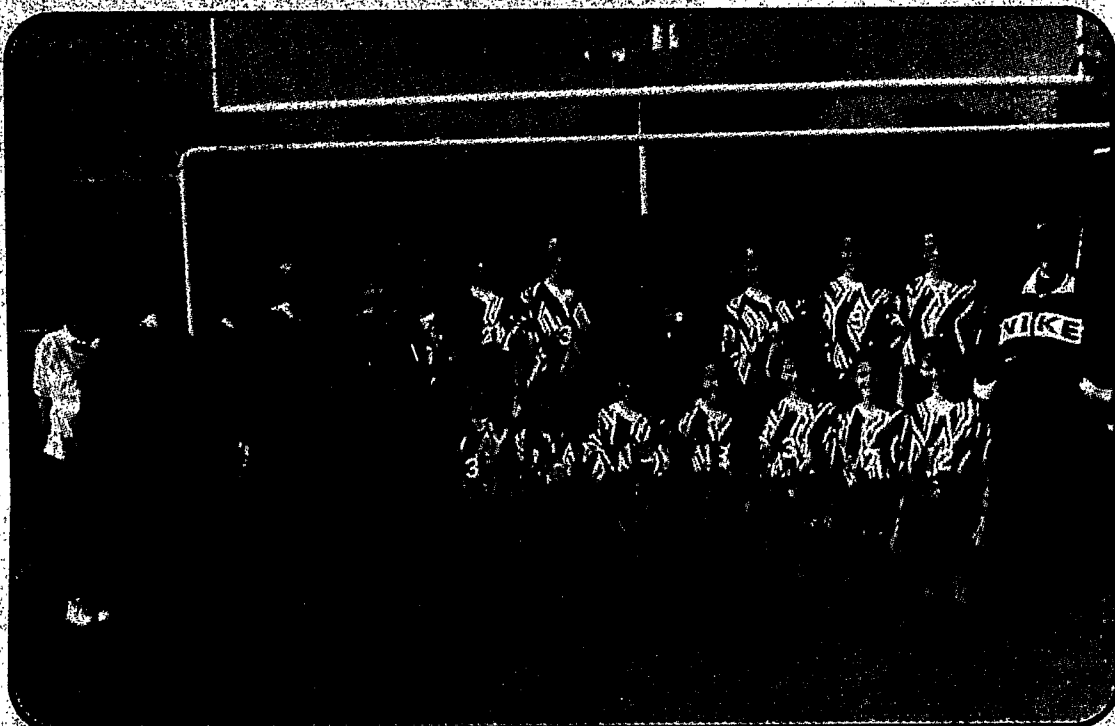
St. Stanislaus Rock-A-Chaws-Defending State Class II Champions-1st place district

Front row from left, Rimmer Covington, Kippy Chamberlain, Patricio Ramirez, Morris Hamilton, Kyle Kidd, Edward Flores, Charles Raymond, and Alan Jensen. Middle row from left, Ryan Hall, Chris Davis, A.J. Pace, Ronnie Vanney, John Ourso, Matt Dillenkoffer, Chris Genin, Brandon Lewis, John rich, Jonathan Gagnon, Billy Powell, and Jimmy Saucier. Back row from left, Coach Tim Burns, Neil Favre, Phillippe Michel, Nick Middleton, Robbie Morrison, Gabriel de la Fuente, Mark Gagnon, Justin Wadsworth, Brandon Everett, Kile Foster, Ty McMichael, Brian McDonald, Roger Ridgeway and Kyle Edrington.



Bay High School Lady Tigers-Defending South State Champions-1st place district

Front row from left, Belle Penrose, Katie DiBenedetto, Linsey Piazza, Julie Summers, Amanda Kingston, Rachel Perniciaro, Ashley Ponder, and Sky Thomas. Back row from left, manager Chari McQueen, Melanie Perniciaro, Michelle Perniciaro, Jamie Robertson, April Griffin, Kimberly Storey, Jennifer Storey, Mea Bordes, coach Ken Matthew, Andie Fillingame, Mandie French, and managers Josh Ladnier and Tom Nguyen.



Our Lady Academy Crescents-2nd place district

Front row from left, Kristen Cannon, Jessica Vargas, Katie Fillingame, Natalie Mitchell, Ashley Chrisman, Melissa Chapoton, Ellen Ladner, Margie Ticer, Mikki Kenny and Emily Meyers. Back row from left, coach Karen Hunt, Leslie Esher, Leila Gargoum, Elizabeth Uram, Erin Harshbarger, Erin Gallagher, Jullian Hunter, Erin Favre, Lynn Dubuisson, Jill Rutherford, Katie Dennis, Missy McPhail and Melissa Niolet, manager. Not pictured is Kathryn Scafide.



Bay High School Tigers-2nd place district

Front row from left, Matt Strauser, Rodney Ladner, Chris Foster, Jason Rieben, Trevor Kingston, Brandon Dupuy and Hung Le. Middle row from left, Greg Dupuy, Rick Beacham, Jeff Rose, Cameron Schwartz, Scott Dahn and Mark Perniciaro. Back row from left, Assistant Coach Roselyn Watson, Van Nguyen, Chris Flowers, Nick Saucier, Cory Ray, Steven Boudro, David Flowers, Josh Ladnier, Mike Flowers and Head Coach Ken Matthew. Not pictured are Timmy Kingston and Jay Saucier.

Good Luck in the state playoffs!

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Krewe of Kids parade rolled under blue skies

(Pictured right) The Krewe of Senior Kids King George Fairfield and Queen Helen Pahlman toast the Krewe of Kids royalty as they go by during the Krewe of Kids Mardi Gras parade Saturday. Approximately 200 children participated in the parade in Bay St. Louis.

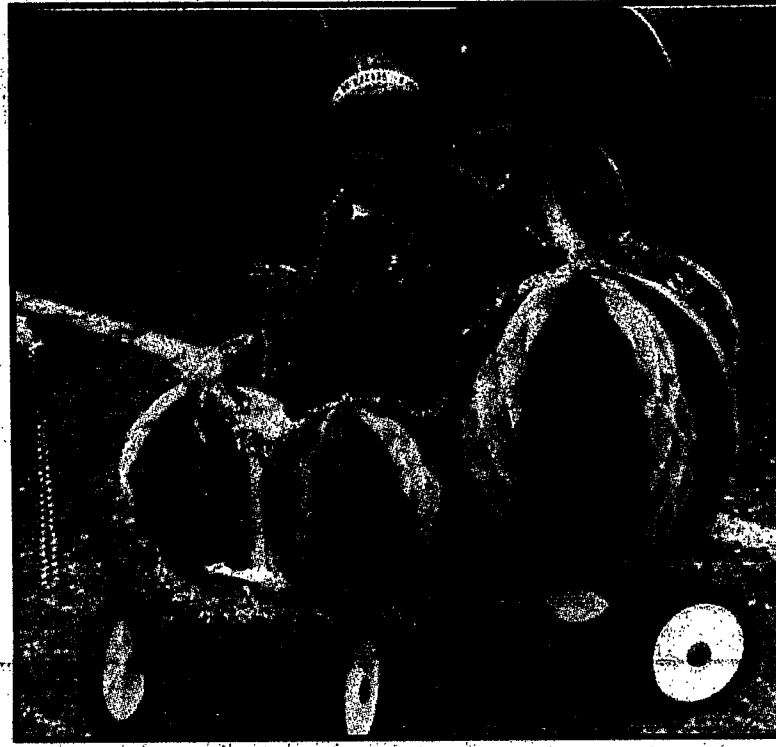
(Below) Tiger Cub Pack 208 had an easy ride as they came by Dunbar Village during the Krewe of Kids parade.



(Top right) This youngster had his Mardi Gras face for the Krewe of Kids parade Saturday.

(Right) Tenille Farmer, left, and Kavonna Bradley were all smiles and ready to roll in the Krewe of Kids parade.

Echo staff photos by Kelly Blanchard



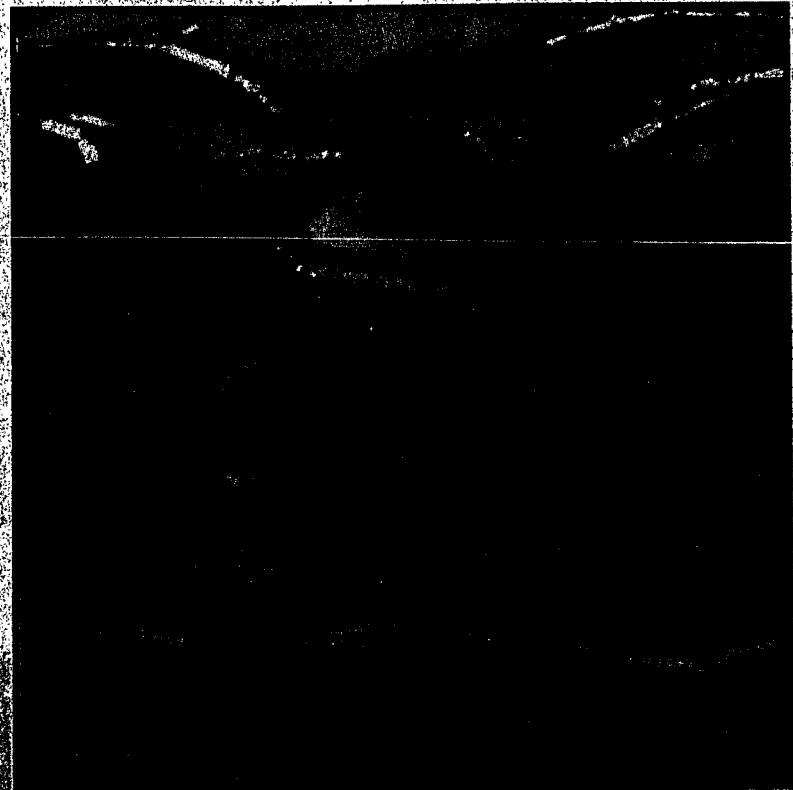
Krewe of Nereids rolls for a record crowd



(Left) The Diamondhead Highsteppers strut their stuff in front of a record crowd during the Krewe of Nereids parade in Waveland Sunday.

(Right) The Sportsman's Paradise float was one of the many units in the parade.

Echo staff photos by Randy Ponder



(Left) A Nereids float was one of the many units in the parade. (Right) A Nereids float was one of the many units in the parade.

CASINO HAPPENINGS

Casino Magic

Entertainment

BAY ST. LOUIS
Feb. 6, The Topcats, 8 p.m.-midnight
Feb. 7 and 8, The Impressions
Feb. 9 and 10, New Orleans' Mardi Gras Indians
All shows at 8 and 10:30 p.m. on the casino's main lobby stage with free admission unless otherwise noted. Call 1-800-5-Magic-5 for information.

Promotions

BAY ST. LOUIS AND BILOXI

Pick a car — any car. You decide... will it be a Z3 BMW Roadster, a C230 Mercedes or a Jeep Grand Cherokee? Starting Feb. 15, Casino Magic Bay St. Louis and Biloxi will give away a car each Saturday night for seven weeks.

Register daily at each casino. Ten finalists will be drawn every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. All 30 finalists will receive \$100 cash and a chance to win the car of their choice. (Winners pick one of three cars). Start earning your registration tickets as early as Feb. 7. See Players Club for details.

Tournaments

BAY ST. LOUIS

"Play for Pets" Monday, Feb. 17. Entry fee is a 10-pound bag of cat or dog food. Registration time is 9-11 a.m. with final round at 4:30 p.m. The tournament begins at noon and benefits the Waveland Animal Shelter.

THE BRIDGES

The Bridges Golf Resort is now taking tee times. Call 1-800-5-Magic-5 or 467-9257.



Mardi Gras

Casino Magic Chairman of the Board Marlin Torguson, center, tosses cups and beads during the annual Nereids parade Sunday in Waveland. Also riding the float are Casino Magic General Manager Jeff Dahl, left, and ERA Bayshore Realty owner Herb Dubuison, right. (Echo staff photo by Randy Ponder)

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From left, Casino Magic Bay St. Louis General Manager Jeff Dahl, Employee of the Year Darlene Robinson; and Casino Magic Corporation Chairman of the Board Marlin Torguson.

Employees of the Year

Darlene Robinson of Bay St. Louis has been named Employee of the Year at Casino Magic-Bay St. Louis. Sara Miller of Biloxi was named Employee of the Year at Casino Magic-Biloxi.

At both casinos, employees are nominated on a monthly basis, and then one is selected each month as the Employee of the Month. Of those nominated throughout the year, one employee is voted to the high-ranking status of Employee of the Year.

Robinson works in the transportation department, and Miller works in the food and beverage department. Each received a check for \$2,000 and a commemorative clock. As employees of the month, each received a gold pin.

and a convenient parking space near the casino entrance for the month they were nominated. Employees are nominated by supervisors and voted on by a committee.

Casino Magic Bay St. Louis general manager, Jeff Dahl, said, "This is an added benefit that we give to our employees in appreciation for all their hard work. In 1997, employees of the month will receive a rent-a-car of their very own for one month. This is in addition to their other benefits, not instead of."

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III	BEVERLY HILLS NINJA	PG-13
Fri. & Thurs. 7:10, 9:15; Sat/Wed: 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:15		
IV	STAR WARS	PG
Fri. & Thurs. 7:10, 9:15; Sat/Wed: 2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:15		

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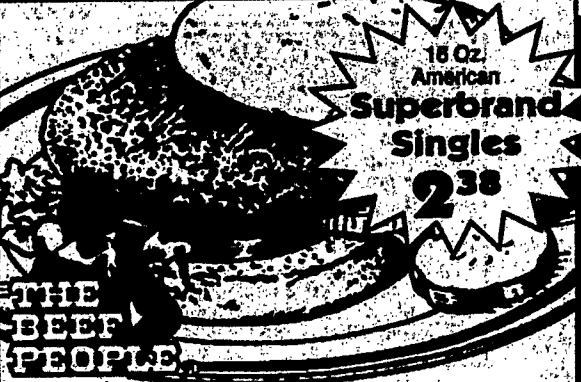


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